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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 11 and 12.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 2 to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner. In addition, although claim 12 was not rejected, Applicants have amended claims 12 to correct a minor informality contained therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' Admitted Prior Art Fig. 5 (AAPA). And claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Wright (U.S. 3,548,356). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A transformer comprising:

a bobbin having first and second tube-shaped members which are coaxial and integral with one another, said first tube-shaped member being located radially within said second tube-shaped member so as to form a gap located therebetween, and said first and second tube-shaped members being integral with and attached to a common base member;

a first winding comprising an air-core coil located in said gap between said first and second tube-shaped members of said bobbin;
and

a second winding affixed to said second tube-shaped member of said bobbin." (Emphasis added)

Claim 11 recites features that are similar to the features recited in claim 1, including the emphasized features.

The Examiner alleged that AAPA teaches all of the features recited in claims 1 and 11 of the present application, including a bobbin structure having first and second tube-shaped members 11, 14 which are co-axial and integral with one another, the first tube-shaped member being located radially within the second tube-shaped member so as to form a gap, a first air-core coil winding 12 located in the gap between the first and second tube-shaped members, and a second winding 15 affixed to the second tube

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shaped member 14. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In contrast to the present claimed invention and the Examiner's allegations, AAPA teaches two separate and distinct tube-shaped members 11 and 14 which are clearly NOT integral with one another (see Fig. 5 and the corresponding description in the Background of the Invention). Thus, AAPA clearly fails to teach or suggest "a bobbin having first and second tube-shaped members which are coaxial and integral with one another" as recited in the present claimed invention.

In addition, contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the first coil winding 12 is clearly NOT an "air-core coil winding." An "air-core winding" is specifically defined in the specification, as originally filed, as "a coil which is not supported by a bobbin or similar core" (see the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 of the specification, as originally filed). Since the winding 12 of AAPA is specifically disclosed as being "wound on the first bobbin 11", the winding 12 of AAPA cannot be fairly construed as an "air-core coil" as alleged by the Examiner. Thus, AAPA clearly fails to teach or suggest "a first winding comprising an air-core coil" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Furthermore, the first and second tube-shaped members 11 and 14 of AAPA are clearly NOT integral with and attached to a common base. In contrast, the first tube-shaped member 11 is attached to a base member (see Fig. 5 of the present application), and the second tube-shaped member 14 is a separate and independent member which is NOT integral with and attached to the base member that the first tube-shaped member is attached to. Thus, AAPA clearly fails to teach or suggest "said first and second tube-shaped members being integral with and attached to a common base member" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Wright is relied upon merely to teach an air-core coil 10, and certain fails to teach or suggest "a bobbin having first and second tube-shaped members which are coaxial and integral with one another, said first tube-shaped member being located radially within said second tube-shaped member so as to form a gap located therebetween, and said first and second tube-shaped members being integral with and attached to a common base member" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that AAPA and Wright, applied alone

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or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 1 and 11 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 11 are allowable. Claims 2-10 and 12-20 depend upon claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 11 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a Two-month extension of time, extending to May 5, 2003, the period for response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2002.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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